

**TITLE OF THE INVENTION**

**METAL CATHODE AND INDIRECTLY HEATED CATHODE  
ASSEMBLY HAVING THE SAME**

**CLAIM OF PRIORITY**

[0001] This application makes reference to, incorporates the same herein, and claims all benefits accruing under 35 U.S.C. § 119 from my application *METAL CATHODE AND INDIRECTLY HEATED CATHODE ASSEMBLY HAVING THE SAME* filed with the Korean Industrial Property Office on 21 February 2001 and there duly assigned Serial No. 8753/2001.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

**Technical Field**

[0002] The present invention relates to a metal cathode used in electron-beam devices, and more particularly, to a thermoelectron-emissive metal cathode and an indirectly heated cathode assembly employing the thermoelectron-emissive metal cathode that can be applied to electron-beam devices.

**Description of the Background Art**

[0003] As a conventional cathode used in an electron tube, oxide cathodes have been widely used. An oxide cathode includes an electron emissive material layer on a metal base containing nickel (Ni) as a main component and a trace reducing agent such as silicon (Si) or magnesium (Mg). The

1 electron emissive material layer is formed of a carbonate oxide of alkaline earth metals containing  
2 barium (Ba) as a main component, but preferably, an oxide of a ternary carbonate of  $(\text{Ba}, \text{Sr}, \text{Ca})\text{CO}_3$   
3 or a binary carbonate of  $(\text{Ba}, \text{Sr})\text{CO}_3$ . Such oxide cathodes are operable at a relatively low  
4 temperature of 700-800 °C (Celsius) due to their low work function, but have a limited electron  
5 emission capability with a current density less than  $1\text{ A/cm}^2$  (Amperes per centimeter square).  
6 Furthermore, since the oxide cathode is formed of a semiconductor and has high electrical resistance,  
7 degradation of the cathode is resulted from evaporation or melting of the material caused by self-  
8 heating by Joule heat as the current density is increased. Also, an intermediate resistance layer is  
9 formed between the metal base and the oxide layer with increased use, thereby shortening the life  
10 span of the cathode.

11 [0004] The oxide cathode is fragile and has weak adhesion to the metal base. Thus, adopting this  
12 type of cathode can reduce the life of a cathode-ray tube (CRT). As an example, a costly color  
13 picture tube that needs three oxide cathodes may fail entirely if only one of the oxide cathodes is  
14 damaged.

15 [0005] For this reason, approaches to using a high-performance metal cathode, which is free from  
16 the drawback of the oxide cathode, in a CRT are increasing. In addition, in order to keep in step with  
17 the recent need for a Braun tube with a larger-sized screen, longer lifetime, high-definition, and high-  
18 luminance, there is a need for a cathode having a longer lifetime at high current density.

19 [0006] For example, a lanthanum hexaboride ( $\text{LaB}_6$ ) based metal cathode, which has been  
20 developed to meet the above requirement, is more durable and has greater electron emission

1 capability than oxide cathodes. The monocrystalline cathode of lanthanum hexaboride has a high  
2 current density of about 10A/cm<sup>2</sup>. However, the short life span of the lanthanum hexaboride based  
3 metal cathode limits its application to only a vacuum electron device with a replaceable cathode unit.  
4 The short life span of the lanthanum hexaboride based metal cathode is due to a high reactivity to  
5 the constituent material of a heater. Lanthanum hexaboride changes into a weakly bound compound  
6 by contact with tungsten, which is common as a material of a heater.

7 [0007] U.S. Patent No. 4,137,476 issued to Ishii *et al.* for *Thermionic Cathode*, discloses a  
8 cathode with a barrier layer between a lanthanum hexaboride cathode and the body of a heater for  
9 blocking possible reaction between the cathode and the heater. However, the cathode has a  
10 considerably high manufacturing cost and a poor life extension effect. Research into and  
11 development of a cathode based on secondary electron emission and an impregnated cathode are  
12 being conducted, but they still have the problems of short lifetime and high production cost.

13 [0008] The conventional metal cathode causes many problems during operation due to its high  
14 operating temperature, such as a current leakage between the heater and cathode or a heater  
15 disconnection. USSR Patent No. 1975520 issued to Petrovich *et al.* for *Cathode of Electronic*  
16 *Device*, discloses a method of adding an alkali metal in forming a cathode of a metal alloy having  
17 a platinum group metal and alkaline earth metal so as to lower the operating temperature and  
18 increase a secondary emission coefficient. USSR Patent No. 1975520 discloses in particular  
19 cathodes that are made of alloys of Ni-Mg-Li, Ni-Sr-Li, or Ni-Ca-Li. The working temperatures of  
20 cathodes made specifically of alloys of Ni-Mg-Li, Ni-Sr-Li, or Ni-Ca-Li were lowered, however, the

1 problem of the high working temperature of cathodes made of alloys of Pt-Ba or Pd-Ba were in  
2 reality not solved. The cathodes made of alloys of Pt-Ba or Pd-Ba still had high operating  
3 temperatures of up to 1200°C (Celsius), thereby causing a problem of heater disconnection and  
4 current leakage when applied to a Braun tube, as described above.

5 [0009] Furthermore, the manufacture of a conventional CRT involves an aging process at a higher  
6 temperature, *i.e.*, about 1300°C (Celsius), than the operating temperature of cathodes, *i.e.*, 1100-  
7 1200°C (Celsius) to warm up the cathodes. Such an aging process creates a serious risk of damage  
8 such as current leakage and heater disconnection.

9 [0010] Although metal cathodes such as those described above can be used in a CRT, thermal  
10 distortion of neighboring electrodes, particularly, the G1 electrode, caused by a metal cathode  
11 working at a high temperature results in increased stabilization time, thereby limiting practical uses.

## 12 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

13 [0011] It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a thermoelectron-emissive metal  
14 cathode for electron-beam devices such as a Braun tube and picture tube, with a low operating  
15 temperature, good electron emission capability, and an extended life span at high current density.

16 [0012] It is another object of the present invention to provide an indirectly heated cathode  
17 assembly employing the above thermoelectron-emissive metal cathode.

18 [0013] To achieve the above and other objects of the present invention, there is provided a metal  
19 cathode for an electron-beam device, the metal cathode including an electron-emitter formed of a

1 quaternary alloy including 0.1-20% by weight barium (Ba), 0.1-20% by weight a metallic mobilizer  
2 facilitating Ba diffusion, 0.01-30% by weight a metal with a difference in atomic radius of at least  
3 0.4 Å (Angstrom) from the atomic radius of platinum (Pt) or palladium (Pd), and a balance of at least  
4 one of Pt and Pd.

5 [0014] In the metal cathode according to the present invention, it is preferable that the metallic  
6 mobilizer facilitating Ba diffusion is at least one member selected from the group including  
7 molybdenum (Mo), hafnium (Hf), zirconium (Zr), and thorium (Th).

8 [0015] In the metal cathode according to the present invention, it is preferable that the metal with  
9 a difference in atomic radius of at least 0.4 Å (Angstrom) from the atomic radius of platinum (Pt)  
10 or palladium (Pd) is at least one member selected from the group including calcium (Ca), strontium  
11 (Sr), and cerium (Ce). It is also preferable that the metal with a difference in atomic radius of at least  
12 0.4 Å (Angstrom) from the atomic radius of platinum (Pt) or palladium (Pd) is an alloy of cerium  
13 (Ce) and iridium (Ir). The alloy of cerium and iridium is preferably Ir<sub>5</sub>Ce.

14 [0016] There is also provided a metal cathode for an electron-beam device, the metal cathode  
15 including an electron-emitter formed of a quaternary alloy including 0.1-20% by weight barium (Ba),  
16 0.1-20% by weight a metallic mobilizer facilitating Ba diffusion, 0.01-30% by weight a metal with  
17 a difference in atomic radius of at least 0.4 Å (Angstrom) from the atomic radius of platinum (Pt)  
18 or palladium (Pd), and a balance of at least one of Pt and Pd, and a layer of a material having a larger  
19 work function than above quaternary alloy coated on the electron-emitter. It is preferable that the  
20 material having a larger work function than the quaternary alloy is one of iridium (Ir) and an alloy

of osmium (Os) and ruthenium (Ru). It is preferable that the coated layer has a thickness of 500-30,000 Å (Angstrom). It is preferable that the alloy of Os and Ru contains 1-10% by weight Ru.

[0017] In the metal cathode according to the present invention, it is preferable that the metallic mobilizer facilitating Ba diffusion is at least one selected from the group including molybdenum (Mo), hafnium (Hf), zirconium (Zr), and thorium (Th).

[0018] In the metal cathode according to the present invention, it is preferable that the metal with a difference in atomic radius of at least 0.4 Å (Angstrom) from the atomic radius of platinum (Pt) or palladium (Pd) is at least one selected from the group including calcium (Ca), strontium (Sr), and cerium (Ce). It is also preferable that the metal with a difference in atomic radius of at least 0.4 Å (Angstrom) from the atomic radius of platinum (Pt) or palladium (Pd) is an alloy of cerium (Ce) and iridium (Ir), and more preferably Ir<sub>5</sub>Ce.

[0019] An indirectly heated cathode assembly employing the metal cathode described above is also preferable.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0020] A more complete appreciation of this invention, and many of the attendant advantages thereof, will be readily apparent as the same becomes better understood by reference to the following detailed description when considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which like reference symbols indicate the same or similar components, wherein:

[0021] FIG. 1A is a photo showing dissolution of Pt<sub>5</sub>Ba in a conventional metal cathode;



1 [0022] FIG. 1B is a photo showing Ba diffusion in the emitter of the conventional metal cathode;

2 [0023] FIG. 1C is a sectional view showing a Ba monoatomic layer on the surface of the emitter  
3 of the conventional metal cathode;

4 [0024] FIG. 2 is a graph showing the electron emission capability of a metal cathode formed of  
5 alloys used in examples of the present invention and comparative examples; and

6 [0025] FIGs. 3A and 3B are sectional views of indirectly heated cathode assemblies employing  
7 the metal cathode.

#### 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19

### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0026] Turning now to the drawings, a metal cathode and a method of manufacturing the metal cathode according to the present invention will be described in greater detail. The present invention is characterized in that an electron-emitter of the metal cathode is formed of a quaternary alloy to reduce the operating temperature to be lower than a metal cathode formed of a binary alloy of a platinum (Pt) group metal and alkaline earth metal. The electron-emitter of the metal cathode according to the present invention is formed by the addition of a metallic mobilizer facilitating barium (Ba) diffusion into the binary alloy and a metal with a different atomic diameter from platinum (Pt) or palladium (Pd) capable of changing the atomic and electronic structure of the binary alloy.

[0027] FIGs. 1A, 1B, and 1C show each step of the electron emission mechanism in a conventional Pt-Ba alloy based cathode.

1 [0028] A metal cathode formed of pure Pt has a work function as large as 5.3 eV, but the work  
2 function is reduced to 2.2 eV by addition of Ba, thereby enabling the metal cathode to serve as a  
3 thermoelectron-emissive cathode. Reduction in work function by the addition of Ba is explained as  
4 being due to a reduction in surface work function by formation of Ba monoatomic layer on the  
5 surface of the Pt-Ba alloy cathode during operation.

6 [0029] Accordingly, an electron emission mechanism of the Pt-Ba alloy cathode involves the  
7 following three steps. The first step is decomposition of  $Pt_5Ba$  of the alloy, as shown in FIG. 1A.  
8 In a Pt-Ba alloy containing Ba less than 16.66% by weight, Ba exists in the form of  $Pt_5Ba$  as an  
9 intermetallic compound, which is decomposed during cathode operation to provide Ba atoms. The  
10 second step is diffusion of decomposed Ba atoms toward the emitter surface, as shown in FIG. 1B.  
11 Such Ba diffusion should be fast and continuous to give improved characteristics and increase the  
12 life span of the cathode. The third step is optimal formation of a Ba monoatomic layer on the surface  
13 of the emitter. Through these three steps, the work function at the emitter surface is reduced, thereby  
14 enabling electron emission at a relatively low temperature.

15 [0030] However, as described above, the thermoelectron-emissive cathode formed of a binary  
16 alloy of Pt and Ba has better electron emission characteristics than a conventional oxide cathode, but  
17 has a high operating temperature of about 1200°C (Celsius), thereby causing a heater disconnection  
18 and current leakage to occur. Also, the binary alloy based thermoelectron-emissive cathode has a  
19 limited life span due to excess crystal growth in the emitter.

20 [0031] To address the above limitations, a method for lowering the work function of the cathode



1 based on the electron emission mechanism described above has been studied. As a result, there has  
2 been success in manufacturing a thermoelectron-emissive cathode with a reduced work function, low  
3 operating temperature, good electron emission capability, and extended life span at high current  
4 density, by forming the electron-emitter of the cathode using a quaternary alloy. The quaternary  
5 alloy is obtained by adding to a binary alloy containing a Pt group metal and alkaline earth metal,  
6 a mobilizer such as molybdenum (Mo), hafnium (Hf), zirconium (Zr), or thorium (Th) to facilitate  
7 Ba diffusion and a metal such as calcium (Ca), strontium (Sr), or cerium (Ce) having a different  
8 atomic radius from Pt or Pd to change the atomic and electronic structure of the binary alloy.

9 [0032] In addition, the work function of the cathode has been reduced by coating the electron-  
10 emitter surface with iridium (Ir) or an alloy of osmium (Os) and ruthenium (Ru) having a larger work  
11 function than above quaternary alloy, thereby dropping the operating temperature of the metal  
12 cathode.

13 [0033] The metal cathode according to the present invention includes 0.1-20% by weight Ba based  
14 on the total weight of the quaternary alloy. If the content of Ba is less than 0.1% by weight, the life  
15 span of the resultant metal cathode is shorted due to a shortage of Ba serving as an active component.  
16 If the content of Ba exceeds 20% by weight, formation of the emitter becomes difficult with  
17 increased brittleness of the alloy ingot, and an undesirable compound with poor electron emission,  
18 such as  $Pt_2Ba$ , is formed on the surface of the metal cathode.

19 [0034] The metal cathode according to the present invention includes 0.1-20% by weight a  
20 metallic mobilizer based on the total weight of the quaternary alloy. The metal mobilizer is capable

1 of facilitating the diffusion of Ba in an alloy. As described above, for a Pt-Ba alloy based cathode,  
2 Ba exists in the form of  $Pt_5Ba$  as an intermetallic compound that is decomposed during operation to  
3 provide Ba atoms. Here, the decomposed Ba needs to be diffused fast and continuously toward the  
4 emitter surface to lower the work function of the metal cathode.

5 [0035] If the content of metallic mobilizer is less than 0.1% by weight, the diffusion facilitating  
6 effect is insignificant. If the content of metallic mobilizer exceeds 20% by weight, the life span and  
7 electron emission characteristics of the metal cathode are degraded. It is preferable that the metallic  
8 mobilizer facilitating Ba diffusion is at least one of Mo, Hf, Zr, and Th.

9 [0036] The metal cathode according to the present invention includes 0.1-30% by weight a metal  
10 based on the total weight of the quaternary alloy with the metal including a difference of 0.4 Å  
11 (Angstrom) or greater in atomic radius from the atomic radius of Pt or Pd.

12 [0037] For a conductive or semi-conductive crystal, the work function is defined as the difference  
13 between the Fermi level of the crystal and the surface energy at a temperature of absolute zero. A  
14 larger work function means that electron emission from the crystal surface is more difficult, and the  
15 difficulty in electron emission means that the surface energy state of the crystal is stable (low). In  
16 contrast, when the surface energy state of the crystal is unstable (high), electron emission is easier.  
17 Addition of a metal having a different atomic radius from Pt or Pd causes a severe distortion in the  
18 atomic arrangement of the binary alloy so that the energy state of the alloy is unstablized. This  
19 change in the atomic or electronic structure of the alloy lowers the work function.

20 [0038] If the content of the metal with a difference of 0.4 Å (Angstrom) or greater in atomic radius

1 from Pt or Pd is less than 0.01% by weight, the effect of the metal addition is insignificant so that  
2 the work function of the metal cathode scarcely changes. If the content of the metal exceeds 30%  
3 by weight, the work function increases rather than decreases due to a relative reduction in the amount  
4 of the basic emitter source material.

5 [0039] Any metal satisfying the requirement of atomic radius difference, a 0.4 Å (Angstrom) or  
6 greater difference in atomic radius from Pt or Pd, can be used without limitation, but at least one of  
7 Ca, Sr, and Ce is preferred. In the case where Ce is added, an alloy of Ce with Ir, Ir<sub>5</sub>Ce, is preferred.

8 [0040] A balance of at least one of Pt and Pd is added to the three metals described above, Ba, a  
9 metallic mobilizer, and metal with a predetermined atomic radius difference, so that the metal  
10 cathode formed of the quaternary alloy according to the present invention is obtained.

11 [0041] Furthermore, the metal cathode includes a layer of a material having a larger work function  
12 than the quaternary alloy coated on the electron-emitter according to the present invention.

13 [0042] When the surface of cathode is coated with a material of high work function, the work  
14 function of the metal cathode itself, in other word, the minimum required energy for electron  
15 emission becomes lower.

16 [0043] A material of high work function needs more ionized electron donors so that the surface  
17 can be optimally covered with Ba. In this manner, coated layer can reduce the work function of the  
18 metal cathode. The higher the work function of coating material is, the better the reduction effect  
19 is.

20 [0044] A material having a larger work function than the quaternary alloy may be Ir or an Os-Ru

alloy, which do not react with Ba. The layer of Ir or Os-Ru alloy coated on the electron-emitter reduces the work function of the metal cathode. In the case where an Os-Ru alloy is used, it is preferable that the alloy contains 1-10% by weight Ru based on the total weight of Os-Ru alloy. If the content of Ru is less than 1% by weight, the effect of adding Ru is insignificant. If the content of Ru exceeds 10% by weight, the effect of reducing the work function is degraded.

[0045] It is preferable that the Ir or Os-Ru alloy layer has a thickness of 500-30,000 Å (Angstrom), more preferably, 1,000-10,000 Å (Angstrom). This thickness range is effective in reducing the work function without emission capability degradation.

[0046] A method for manufacturing a metal cathode according to the present invention will be described in greater detail through the following example.

[0047] First, one of Mo, Hf, Zr, and Th, serving as a metallic mobilizer facilitating Ba diffusion, and one of Ca, Sr, Ce, and Ir-Ce alloy, are placed inside an arc chamber. Because Pt and Ba have a large difference in melting point, it is preferable to use an arc chamber capable of causing spontaneous melting of metals. Ba is liable to vaporize during manufacture of the metal cathode, and thus 1-10% by weight more Ba than the final composition is added. An inert gas such as Ar is supplied into and continuously evacuated from the arc chamber to flush out any reactive residual gasses. Next, the four metals are melted in a moment by the application of a voltage. Due to a great density difference between Pt and Ba, it is difficult to form a uniform metal alloy from these metals. For this reason, in the present invention, melting and solidifying of the alloy are repeated several times, thereby enabling manufacture of a quaternary-alloy metal electrode with uniform chemical

1 composition and fine structure.

2 [0048] The quaternary alloy is cut or molded into a cathode having an appropriate shape for the  
3 cathode structure of an electron tube and installed in a cathode assembly.

4 [0049] Alternatively, Ir or Os-Ru alloy may be coated, for example, by evaporation, on the  
5 quaternary alloy made in the arc chamber to form a metal cathode according to the present invention.

6 The metal cathode is cut or molded into an appropriate shape for the cathode structure of an electron  
7 tube and installed in a cathode assembly.

8 [0050] The metal electrode according to the present invention used in an electron tube can be used  
9 to form a directed heated cathode assembly, but preferably an indirectly heated cathode assembly,  
10 as shown in FIG. 3A or 3B.

11 [0051] Referring to FIG. 3A, a metal cathode 31 according to the present invention, which is  
12 formed of the quaternary alloy prepared as described above, is welded to the top of a sleeve 35 in  
13 which a heater 34 is installed, to act as a thermoelectron emitter of the indirectly heated cathode  
14 assembly. Referring to FIG. 3B, a metal cathode 33 according to the present invention formed by  
15 coating an Ir or Os-Ru alloy layer 32 on the quaternary alloy metal cathode 31 prepared as described  
16 above, is welded to the top of the sleeve 35 in which the heater 34 is installed, to act as an emitter  
17 of the indirectly heated cathode assembly.

18 [0052] The present invention will be described in greater detail by means of the following  
19 examples. The following examples are for illustrative purposes and are not intended to limit the  
20 scope of the invention.

[0053] Example 1

[0054] 3.65 g (grams) of Pt, 0.32 g of Ba, 0.28 g of Mo, and 0.04 g of Ca, each in an ingot form, were placed into an arc chamber. Ar gas was supplied into and continuously evacuated from the arc chamber to flush out any reactive residual gasses. A voltage was applied to the arc chamber to melt the metals, Pt, Ba, Mo, and Ca, and form a quaternary alloy ingot of the metals. The quaternary alloy ingot was subjected to melting three times to enhance uniformity in chemical composition and fine structure. The final quaternary alloy contained, by weight, 85.5% Pt, 7.0% Ba, 6.6% Mo, and 0.7% Ca according to the total weight of the final quaternary alloy.

[0055] The quaternary alloy was cut into a metal electrode of an appropriate size and welded to the top of the sleeve 35 as shown in FIG. 3A to form an indirectly heated cathode assembly. Operating temperature and current density variation of the metal cathode were measured. The results are shown in Table 1 and FIG. 2.

[0056] Example 2

[0057] A quaternary alloy including, by weight, 81.0% Pt, 6.9% Ba, 2.6% Hf, and 9.5% Ir<sub>5</sub>Ce according to total weight of the quaternary alloy, was prepared in the same manner as in Example 1, except that 3.67 g of Pt, 0.32 g of Ba, 0.12 g of Hf, and 0.43 g of Ir<sub>5</sub>Ce were initially used.

[0058] The quaternary alloy was cut into a metal electrode of an appropriate size and welded to the top of the sleeve 35 as shown in FIG. 3A to form an indirectly heated cathode assembly. Operating temperature and current density variation of the metal cathode were measured. The results



are shown in Table 1 and FIG. 2.

**[0059]** Example 3

**[0060]** The quaternary alloy of Example 1 was coated with an Ir layer by vacuum deposition to a thickness of 3,000 Å (Angstrom) and subjected to a thermal process at a temperature of about 1,000°C (Celsius) in a hydrogen or nitrogen atmosphere.

**[0061]** The quaternary alloy was cut into a metal electrode of an appropriate size and welded to the top of the sleeve 35 as shown in FIG. 3B to form an indirectly heated cathode assembly. Operating temperature and current density variation of the metal cathode were measured. The results are shown in Table 1 and FIG. 2.

**[0062]** Example 4

**[0063]** The quaternary alloy of Example 1 was coated with an Os-Ru alloy layer containing 5% by weight Ru according to the total weight of the quaternary alloy by vacuum deposition to a thickness of 1,000 Å (Angstrom) and subjected to a thermal process at a temperature of about 1,000°C (Celsius) in a hydrogen or nitrogen atmosphere.

**[0064]** The quaternary alloy was cut into a metal electrode of an appropriate size and welded to the top of the sleeve 35 as shown in FIG. 3B to form an indirectly heated cathode assembly. Operating temperature and current density variation of the metal cathode were measured. The results are shown in Table 1 and FIG. 2.

1 [0065] Comparative Example 1

2 [0066] 7.29 g of Pt and 0.64 g of Ba, each in an ingot form, were placed in an arc chamber. Ar  
3 gas was supplied into and continuously evacuated from the arc chamber to flush out any reactive  
4 residual gasses. A voltage was applied to the arc chamber to melt the metals, Pt and Ba, and form  
5 a binary alloy ingot of the metals. The binary alloy ingot was subjected to melting three times to  
6 enhance uniformity in chemical composition and fine structure. The final binary alloy contained,  
7 by weight, 92.2% Pt and 7.8% Ba according to the total weight of the final binary alloy.

8 [0067] The binary alloy was cut into a metal electrode of an appropriate size and welded to the  
9 top of the sleeve 35 as shown in FIG. 3A to form an indirectly heated cathode assembly. Operating  
10 temperature and current density variation of the metal cathode were measured. The results are  
11 shown in Table 1 and FIG. 2.

12 [0068] Comparative Example 2

13 [0069] 3.64 g of Pt, 0.32 g of Ba, and 0.04 g of Ca, each in an ingot form, were placed in an arc  
14 chamber. Ar gas was supplied into and continuously evacuated from the arc chamber to flush out  
15 any reactive residual gasses. A voltage was applied to the arc chamber to melt the metals, Pt, Ba,  
16 and Ca, and form a ternary alloy ingot of the metals. The ternary alloy ingot was subjected to  
17 melting three times to enhance uniformity in chemical composition and fine structure. The final  
18 ternary alloy contained, by weight, 91.0% Pt, 8.0% Ba, and 1.0% Ca according to the total weight  
19 of the final ternary alloy.

[0070] The ternary alloy was cut into a metal electrode of an appropriate size and welded to the top of the sleeve 35 as shown in FIG. 3A to form an indirectly heated cathode assembly. Operating temperature and current density variation of the metal cathode were measured. The results are shown in Table 1 and FIG. 2.

Table 1

Example	Type of Alloy	Operating temperature, °C (Celsius)
Example 1	Pt-Ba-Mo-Ca	1135
Example 2	Pt-Ba-Hf-Ir <sub>5</sub> Ce	1120
Example 3	Pt-Ba-Mo-Ca + Ir coating	1080
Example 4	Pt-Ba-Hf-Ir <sub>5</sub> Ce + Os-Ru coating	1085
Comparative Example 1	Pt-Ba	1220
Comparative Example 2	Pt-Ba-Ca	1185

[0071] As shown in Table 1, the metal cathodes of the respective quaternary alloys according to the present invention formed in Examples 1 through 4, some of which have a coating layer, have an operating temperature of 50-150°C (Celsius) lower than the conventional metal cathodes formed of the binary and ternary alloys in Comparative Examples 1 and 2. As shown in FIG. 2, the metal cathodes of the present invention show electron emission (evaluated as maximum cathode current (MIK)) improved by 50% or greater, compared to the conventional metal cathodes.

1 [0072] As described above, the metal cathode according to the present invention has a low  
2 operating temperature due to its reduced work function with improved current emission capability.

3 The metal cathode according to the present invention can be used for a longer lifetime at high current  
4 density. Therefore, the metal cathode according to the present invention can be used effectively in  
5 electron-beam devices, such as a Braun tube or picture tube, satisfying larger size, longer life span,  
6 high definition, and high luminance requirements of the devices.

7 [0073] While this invention has been particularly shown and described with reference to preferred  
8 embodiments thereof, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes in form  
9 and details may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as  
10 defined by the appended claims.